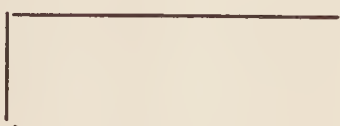


ROTHBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE
Year ending December 31st, 1908.



Rothbury:

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ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1908.

ROTHBURY,

February 9th, 1909.

COLONEL ORDE AND GENTLEMEN,

Allow me to lay before your Council this, my thirteenth Annual Report, being for the year 1908.

During the year 1908, there were registered 100 Births, being exactly the same as last year. Of these, 49 were males and 51 females. If we estimate the population at the middle of 1908 as being 4,800, then this affords a rate of only 20·8. Your previous average has been 24·1, while that for England and Wales last year was 26·2. The migration of the younger and more robust to the collieries and towns evidently still goes on.

The number of births registered during the first quarter was 22 ; the second, 22 ; the third, 30 ; and the last, 26. There was a very considerable falling off in the number born in the Rural part of the Rothbury Parish, from an average of 34 to only 18. Doubtless, families have left this part, owing to recent financial troubles and want of employment thereby. Cambo and Elsdon also show a marked falling off from 16 to only 7. Alwinton, however, showed a marked increase from an average of 17 to 26. The others are about the usual, or a trifle above. The number of illegitimate births was five.

The total number of Deaths registered in the district was 64, which is at a rate of 13·2 ; but of these, three were visitors, who came into the district temporarily, and if we deduct them, then there were 61 only who belonged to the district, and this is at the low rate of only 12·6 per 1,000 per annum, and is very satisfactory. That for England and Wales (Rural populations) for 1908 is 14·7. Your previous average was 13·9. Of these 61 residents, 26 were males and 35 females. They occurred during each month as follows :—January, 4 ; February, 4 ; March, 11 ; April, 5 ; May, 7 ; June, 6 ; July, 5 ; August, 5 ; September, 3 ; October, 4 ; November, 4 ; December, 3.

As the number of births was 100, and the deaths were 61, the difference of 39 was the number that was added to the population during the year. This is at a rate of 8·0 per 1,000, and is below your average of 10·0. That for England and Wales is about 12·0.

It appears, that 11 of the 100 infants died before reaching the age of one year, and hence in infancy, which is at a rate of 110·0 per 1,000 born ; being a little above your average of 91·8. That for England and Wales is 110·0. None of these, however, were illegitimate.

The following are the periods of ages at which these occurred, viz. :—under one year, 11 ; one and under five, 2 ; five to 15, 1 ; 15 to 25, 0 ; 25 to 65, 16 ; and 65 and upwards, 31. Of these latter, eight were between 65 and 70 years of age. 18 others 70 to 80, and five others above that. The eldest being a male aged 85.

In the following table there is given the number of deaths that occurred during the year in each of the Ecclesiastical Parishes, or such parts of them as are in your district ; and opposite these, the death rates as calculated upon each 1,000 of their inhabitants.

	Deaths.	Rate.		Deaths.	Rate.
Rothbury (Rural part of Parish)	24...	17·17	Aluham and Brinkburn	1...	2·7
Alwinton	7...	8·1	Cambo and Elsdon	8...	14·0
Whittingham	11...	14·1	Netherwitton and Long		
Long Framlington	6...	12·1	Horsley	6...	14·6

As the death rate for the whole district for the past ten years averaged 13·9, it follows that Rothbury, with a rate of 17·7, has the heaviest proportion ; then Whittingham, Cambo and Elsdon, and Netherwitton are all about 14·0, and very near the average ; whilst Alwinton, Alnham and Brinkburn are below it.

There was only one death due to any of the seven chief Zymotic or Epidemic diseases (notifiable). This was due to Whooping Cough in an infant, at Caistron. This is at the very low rate of only 0·21, and is very satisfactory. That for England and Wales being 0·99.

Other causes of death were as follows :—**Epidemic Influenza**, 1 ; **Enteritis**, 2 (both being infants) ; **Phthisis** (Pulmonary Consumption) 4·0, this being at a rate of 0·83 only ; that for the last 21 years being at an average of 1·47. Other **Tubercular Diseases** caused 2 deaths **Cancer** caused 2 ; your average for the last 10 years being 4. **Bronchitis** and **Pneumonia** caused 5 deaths, which is at a rate of only 1·0 per 1,000 ; your previous average being 2·0. **Premature Birth** caused 2. **Diseases of Parturition**, 1. **Heart Diseases**, 14 ; your previous average being 10. **Accident**, 1. **Suicide**, 1. **Apoplexy**, 5. **Debility from Birth**, 2. **Senile Decay**, 9. All causes not enumerated in the tables, 9.

There has been a good deal of Influenza during the year all over the district. It has been very marked amongst children, and necessitated the closing of the following schools :—Thropton and Netherton on February 17th, Holystone on the 26th, Long Framlington on the 30th, Hepple and Wingates in March, Callaly in April, and Hepple again in December.

The **Accident** was a fall from a bicycle at Coalsfield (Elsdon), where a young man met his death. The **Suicide** was an old man, who hanged himself at Low Trewhitt, whilst in a depressed state of mind. The Coroner held enquiries on these.

The **Strangers** previously alluded to, were visitors in the district. One, a young man aged 23 years, died of Phthisis at New Town. An unknown man of about 60, died of Apoplexy, at Alwinton ; and a lady, aged 63, died of Apoplexy at Elsdon Tower.

Infectious Diseases were notified in ten cases, as follows :—
Diphtheria, 2 ; Erysipelas, 5 ; Scarlet Fever, 2 ; Puerperal Fever, 1. I am glad to say, none of these were fatal.

The **Puerperal Fever** was at Harrogate Cottages, Long Framlington. Unsanitary conditions were rectified.

The **Scarlet Fever** broke out at the Chirm on April 8th, in a child aged $4\frac{1}{2}$ years. Afterwards, on April 22nd, the servant girl took it. Isolation and disinfection were used ; and on visiting, deficient drainage and unsanitary conditions existed, which were rectified. I could not trace any infection. The patients recovered, with no further extension around.

Erysipelas occurred in five cases. One being under 15, the others being over 25 years of age. Four occurred in the leg and one on the face.

The **Diphtheria** occurred in two outbreaks. The first at Elsdon, and the other at Brockley Hall, Rothbury (Rural). At **Elsdon**, it occurred on January 1st, in the wife of the school-master, aged 26 years. It was not severe and she recovered. Isolation and disinfectants were used. On inspection, very little was found to complain of. A barrel, to catch the rain water, would be useful for flushing ; the house wall needed pointing near sink. I could not trace any source of infection. At **Brockley Hall**, it broke out on May 31st, in a girl, aged 6 years. On inspecting, the sink was not in a satisfactory place ; the cow byres needed better paving and draining ; and the pig sty floor level altered. Isolation and disinfectants were used, and with care the patient recovered. No further cases occurred. It was a mild case, the child was away at Newcastle, and probably caught it there.

Anthrax occurred at the Little Mill on March 28th. The carcase of an animal that died here, was found on inspection, at Newcastle, to have died of Anthrax. A pig and horse also died at the same time. Two other animals also took ill, but recovered in three days. All that was possible was burnt or buried in quick lime. Other places and things washed and disinfected. The sale of milk to 35 customers had to be stopped for ten days. The stable and pig sty needed better draining away and ventilation. A porch needed spouting. Ash midden and privy needed emptying, and the byre kept more tidy. Better provision for beasts has been provided. A man, who cut up the carcase, had a slight sore on the arm, and went to the Newcastle Infirmary. It was pronounced Anthrax, and attended to. He returned well in four days.

The **Isolation Hospital** was used once, for a case of Measles.

Under the **Workshops Act**, nine places were inspected and found correct, with one exception. This was a blacksmith's, at Thropton, who needed a properly constructed privy and ash midden. There are 3 dressmakers, 2 blacksmiths, 2 tailors, 1 bootmaker, and 1 baker.

The **Cowsheds** (with four exceptions) were tidy. At Little Mill, as mentioned above, and some improvements about the farm buildings needed at Whitton, and promised. At this latter, the byre was clean and tidy, and all vessels; the same at Long Framlington, two needed better drainage and ventilation

The **Medical Inspection of Schools Act** has now come into force, and eight schools in your district have been inspected.

An Act for the **Notification of Phthisis** amongst patients in the Poor Law service comes into effect at the New Year.

In connection with Phthisis, I have had instructions printed, with suggestions of means that may be taken to arrest the spread of this disease by infection, and also instructions for disinfecting

rooms after occupation in this and any infectious disease. I have sent some to each Medical Practitioner round about, and offer to supply copies to any address that may be sent me.

The **Special Districts** visited by your Inspector and myself were the Waterworks, Elsdon and Long Framlington. The **Waterworks** are now completed, or about it. There are only 36 men employed daily. Seven houses have been removed, and a good many are unoccupied. The reservoir now is full and running over. It has 80 feet of water in depth ; and there are five filter beds. The water is good, but a trifle brownish from peat. There is no evidence of leakage. All is kept in good sanitary order. Water and drainage well attended to, and refuse regularly removed. At the schools, all is tidy and clean ; there are 62 scholars on the books, most now coming from the White House lime works.

At **Elsdon**. There has been provided a good wash-up sink for Mr Keith, made to deliver, over a sink removed to the outside of the porch. H. Storey has made large additions and improvements to his house, but needs properly constructed privy and midden. At the Schools (67 scholars), the spouting should be altered, so as to supply rain water to the urinals. At the Inn, better paving and spouting to the cow byre. At the Check Gate, properly constructed privy and ash midden. At W. Hawkins', the waste pipe from the house sink needs disconnecting with the drain direct ; also ash midden to be covered in. H. Dent's privy to be removed from too near the pantry, and ash midden covered in. Four ash middens and privies were emptied after notice.

Long Framlington. At the Onstead, all sanitary requirements are needed, these being partly in hand. At Old Colliery Cottages, proper privies and middens. At C. Turnbull's, privy adjoins Sewell's house, his sink needs repairs. Jos. Anderson's privy and ash midden need rebuilding ; cow byre needs paving, light, and ventilation, with drainage ; his drain joined up to the public sewer ; and tap to be mended. R. Lamb needs proper privy midden and

drain. James Gladstone, spouting at back. The Lightpipe (Proudlock), the cow byre needs better drainage, ventilation and light. They supply six families with milk. There are five houses unoccupied. Ten persons keep cows, selling the milk; all being tidy, except the two mentioned. Four ash middens, &c., were emptied after notice. There were six defective taps, mostly put in order. The water supply is good, and your Board have altered the taps for the better at the standards, preventing leakage. The Schools were in good order. The following have been provided :— The North House with proper sanitary sink and drain, with all requirements; removing a long source of complaint, and a great improvement. The old property at the back of the Church, has been acquired by the Rector, who has erected in its place, a good mission room, with good cottage, and all sanitary requirements; also a great improvement. Blakey has converted an old cottage into a good stable, with drainage, &c. Queen's Head inn, considerable additions and improvements. Wood's gutter has been cleaned out. W. Anderson has rectified sewage nuisance at road side. At Old Colliery Cottages, the drainage has been improved. At the Small Dene and the Shaw, the water supply, so much needed, has been laid on.

Besides these mentioned, the following improvements have been provided :—New water supplies to the Blue Burn, the Moral Hirst, Lee Lane, Small Dene, the Shaw, and the Mountain. At the Chirm, the drainage has been greatly improved, and buildings spouted, and properly trapped sinks provided. At Little Tosson, a good sanitary drain, with trapped sinks and gullies, have been provided to the cottages. The pig styes repaired, cemented out and drained; this is a great improvement. Park House, new trapped sink provided. Whitton, the farm house has been much improved by spouting, sinks trapped, and drains; the same also to two cottages. Cow byre also improved, and the privy to farm house. Holling Hill, new drains to the farm house and cottages. Moral Hirst, the same. More drainage at Little Mill and Wag Tail, and

at Healey, the same extended. At Whittingham, new sanitary out-offices have been built for W. Dixon, T. Storey, and Robb. The Slaughter House has been cemented out. At the Castle Inn, new trapped gullies have been provided. At the Bridge of Aln, new sanitary sink and drain. At Great Ryle, sewer outlet repaired, and damp walls cemented. At Mile Moor, proper drainage for the farm buildings. At the Mountain, good water supply in iron pipes. At Brockley Hall, sink shifted and drain opened out. At Fairhaugh, a drain has been laid round the shepherd's house, the roof repaired and spouted, sanitary sinks and drains provided, with other needed repairs to the house. At Heigh, new roofs to the house, stable and cow byre. At Blindburn, the dwelling house has been repaired throughout, all windows now made to open, new floors, and two very damp walls stoothed, trapped sink and sanitary drain also provided. At Carshope, proper window to bedroom, and stable and cow byre cemented out and properly drained. At Rowhope and Trows, repairs to roofs. At Rothley, a new hind's cottage has been built, with all sanitary requirements.

A great deal of your Inspector's time and attention has been devoted to the above.

In addition to the previously noted requirements, the following are also needed :—

Whitton Farm, sanitary arrangements for two cottages, spouting, sink and drain. Extension of sewer outlet, and down pipes connected. All are promised. Lee Sidings, better construction of privies and ash middens, together with spouts and drainage to the cow byres. Thropton, the cottages at head of village need properly constructed privies and ash middens. The Schools here, need better constructed privy, ash middens, and w.c.'s, the yard levelled over better and drained. Water supply to the urinal. A site, for rubbish depot, has been suggested at the Seal Hole, this would do very well, and efforts should be made to get consent. Little Tosson needs sanitary sink and drain to the farm house. The cottager's privy screened from public view, and more provided

behind the cottages, out of sight. Water supplies are needed to the Forest Burn Gate, Hesleyhirst, and Sunnyside. Also improvements to Blaydon Burn and Holling Hill supplies. Much interest is being taken in the Duke's water diviner, who has pointed out suitable sites for wells for all these places. Further steps are to be taken.

I have to thank Mr Bertram, Cragside, for again supplying me with the following table of rainfall and sunshine during the year. This is taken at Cragside, the site of observation being 405 feet above the sea level.

JANUARY	...	...	...	2·72 inches.
FEBRUARY	...	...	...	1·86
MARCH	...	...	...	4·85
APRIL	...	...	...	3·87
MAY	...	...	...	2·37
JUNE	...	...	...	0·96
JULY	...	...	...	2·63
AUGUST	...	...	...	2·68
SEPTEMBER	...	...	...	2·29
OCTOBER	...	...	...	3·15
NOVEMBER	...	...	...	1·68
DECEMBER	...	...	...	1·88
				<hr/>
				30·96
				<hr/>

Your average for ten years is 38·62 inches. There were 185 wet days, and 1,414 hours of sunshine. Last year, 34·12 inches of rain fell, and there were 1,443 hours of sunshine.

Your obedient servant,

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1908 in the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.						Total Cases notified in each Locality.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Rothbury (Rural part of Parish).	Alwinton.	Whittingham.	Longframlington.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwitton.
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards							
Diphtheria ...	2		1		1		1					1	
Erysipelas ...	5		1		4		3	1					1
Scarlet Fever ...	2	1		1									2
Enteric Fever ...													
Puerperal Fever...	1				1					1			
Totals ...	10	1	2	1	6	...	4	1	...	1	..	1	3

Isolation Hospital near Whitton, in Rural area of Rothbury, provided by Rural and Urban Authorities.

Total available beds—12.

Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated—2 to 3.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF, AND AGES, AT DEATH, during Year 1908, in Rothbury (Rural) District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.						Deaths in Localities (at all ages).							
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Rothbury Parish (Rural).	Alwinton.	Whittingham.	Long Framlington.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwitton.
Whooping Cough ...	1	1					1	1						
Epidemic influenza ...	1													
Enteritis ...	2	2								1 1			1	1
Puerperal Fever ...									1					
Phthisis (Pul Tuberculosis)	4					4		2			2			
Other tubercular diseases	2		1	1		1		1	1		1		1	1
Cancer, malignant disease	2	2												
Bronchitis ...	2							1	1					
Pneumonia ...	3		1				2	1	1			1	2	
Premature birth ...	2	2							1	3	3			
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	1					1		1						
Heart diseases ...	14					4	10	5	1				1	
Accidents ...	1					1								
Suicides ...	1						1	1						
Apoplexy ...	5					3	2	2	1	2				2
Debility at birth ...	2	2					9	7		1			1	
Senile decay...	9	2				2	5	2	1	3			1	2
All other causes ...														
All causes ..	61	11	2	1		16	31	23	7	11	6	1	7	6
...														

Total Deaths of Non-Residents in the District — 3.

TABLE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks	Total Under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	5-6 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes (Certified) ,, (Uncertified)	4	2	1	7	2	1	1	11
Whooping Cough					1			1
Enteritis	1			1				1
Gastritis, Gastro- intestinal Catarrh				1			1	1
Premature Birth	1							1
Atrophy, Debility								
Marasmus	1	1	1	3				3
Meningitis		1		1				1
Convulsions	1			1				1
Bronchitis ...					1	1		2
Totals ...	4	2	1	7	2	1	1	11

District of Rothbury (Rural).

Population estimated to middle of 1908, 4,830.

100 Births in the year { legitimate, 95.
illegitimate, 5.

Deaths { legitimate, 11.
illegitimate, 0.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 61.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

In the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under 1 Year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths at all ages. Nett.	
		Number.	*Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Number.	*Rate.			Number.	*Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1891	4791			District formed in 1896.							
1898	4750	115	24·2	11	95·6	88	18·41	...	1	87	18·2
1899	4730	114	23·5	10	88·0	60	12·26	...	1	59	12·0
1900	4710	115	24·4	16	139·1	95	19·8	...	6	89	18·6
1901	4690	96	20·4	11	114·6	67	14·3	...	3	64	13·6
†1902	4770	99	20·9	10	101·0	64	13·4	...	5	59	12·3
1903	4780	133	27·8	12	90·2	69	14·4	...	4	65	13·6
1904	4820	111	23·1	10	90·9	60	12·5	..	4	56	11·6
1905	4855	114	22·4	4	34·8	62	12·8	...	...	62	12·8
1906	4915	135	27·5	10	74·0	67	13·6	...	3	64	13·0
†1907	4900	100	20·3	9	90·0	65	13·3	1	...	65	13·3
Averages for years 1898-1907.	4790	113	23·4	10	91·8	69	14·4	1	2	67	13·9
†1908	4830	100	20·8	11	110·0	64	13·2	...	3	61	12·6

* Rates in columns 4, 8, and 12 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

† Waterworks started.

‡ Men leaving the same.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 166,959

Total Population at all ages (1901) ... 4,689

Number of inhabited houses ... 1,041

Average number of persons per house ... 4·5



TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Names of Localities.	ROTHBURY (Rural part of Parish).				ALWINTON				WHITTINGHAM.				LONGFRAMLINGTON				ALNHAM AND BRINKBURN				CAMBO AND ELSDON.				LONGHORSLEY AND NETHERWITTON			
Year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.				
1891	1358				1034				879				450				365				522				282			
1898	1293	37	29	3	Diminished 154	19	19	2	Diminished 92	18	17	2	Increased 19	8	7	2	Diminished 3	6	4	..	Increased 42	20	8	1	Increased 79	7	4	1
1899	1284	32	15	4		14	5	1		22	18	3		15	9	..		8	4	1		16	6	1		7	2	..
1900	1275	23	28	3		29	17	4		14	11	2		10	11	2		7	9	1		22	9	5		10	4	..
1901	1266	28	23	4		15	10	2		13	10	2		14	10	1		5	3	1		10	5	1		11	5	..
1902	+ 1350	29	19	4		870	16	11	1	780	18	7	1	470	8	13	2	360	2	2	..	565	17	6	2	365	9	1
1903	1380	39	22	6	860	22	6	2	770	22	10	..	470	15	10	1	360	5	5	..	570	18	8	3	370	12	4	..
1904	1420	42	19	3	860	11	8	..	770	10	10	1	470	11	9	3	360	6	2	..	570	10	5	2	370	15	3	1
1905	1420	32	17	2	860	16	18	1	770	18	7	..	470	8	7	..	365	9	3	..	570	17	8	1	+ 400	14	2	..
1906	1450	44	16	6	860	17	14	1	770	14	15	..	480	15	7	1	365	7	3	..	570	19	6	1	420	19	3	1
1907	1430	32	18	0	860	15	20	2	770	15	4	..	480	8	7	1	370	9	3	1	570	9	10	4	420	15	3	1
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907 }	1356	34	20	3.0	880	17	13	1.6	780	16	11	1.0	470	11	9	1.0	370	6	4	0.4	564	16	7	2.0	370	12	3	0.4
	* 1908	1350	18	24	3	860	26	7	2	780	16	11	1	490	9	6	..	370	10	1	1	570	7	8	..	|| 410	14	6	4

† Waterworks started.

† Extension of Waterworks.

* Some Waterworks men leaving.

|| Being removed.

